

BRITAIN MAY CALL ARMY IN STRIKES

Gravity of Spreading Labor Upeaval Augurs Military Law Shortly

SOVIET RUNS BELFAST

Workmen's Committee Takes Over City Government in Virtual Revolt

By the Associated Press London, Jan. 31.—The increasing seriousness of the labor situation in the United Kingdom, especially in Belfast, and the rapid spreading of strikes in the large industrial establishments today are marked here by indications of further disorders that may entail the proclamation of military law.

The labor upheaval was the subject of discussion at a special meeting of the Cabinet yesterday and the Board of Trade also is active in an effort to bring about settlements, but up to this time without success.

The view taken by the government is that governmental interference which would be unwise and perhaps dangerous. The strike movements are local and against the advice of the respective trade unions.

It appears to be believed generally that the absence of strike pay for the men soon will bring about the collapse of the movement.

The problem in view for the government ministers is how to re-establish the authority of the trade unions and assist in the expansion of machinery of conciliation so as to enable each trade to settle its own disputes. The attitude of the employers in most cases is that they will refuse to negotiate until the men resume work.

New Railroad Strike Threatened Thus far the railways have not been affected. The Board of Trade has decided to grant an eight-hour day for the railway men from February 1, but the question of meal times, being included in the eight-hour period, may lead to new difficulties.

Further, a meeting in London yesterday of representatives of 25,000 railway clerks and station masters developed talk of a strike because the Board of Trade refused to recognize these men as a union. They will meet again Sunday to decide on their course of action.

The government will make arrangements to protect lives and property and to preserve order, says the Mail in its course of a discussion of the strike at Clyde. The newspaper says that "unconstitutional threats" have been made by the strikers.

Several persons were injured in Glasgow today when the police charged in a crowd of strikers with their batons. The mounted police were called out and several arrests were made.

Telegrams from Belfast depict a situation there which seems akin to that which recently obtained in German cities under revolutionary rule. The governing power has been assumed, says a Belfast dispatch to the Mail, by the strike committee, and the city is governed, not from the magnificent municipal building known as the City Hall, but from the humble Artisan's Hall.

Workmen Running City "There is an outstanding emergency," says the dispatch, "but there is a capable committee of local trades union leaders, most of whom are moderate and restrained. Nobody can do anything unless he comes out in hand to this committee. Even the police are helpless, and the chief of police has asked the strike leaders to cooperate with the constables in preventing disorders and lawlessness. When strikers go to a hotel to cut off electric current police accompany them. The postmaster has thanked the strike committee for allowing the postoffice to use electricity."

"The committee has prohibited a limited amount of work in certain industries, particularly those involved in feeding and warming the people. Other wise there is no industrial or commercial activity whatever. Last the strikers become bored. The committee has drawn up a program of entertainment to replace the closed theatres and moving-picture houses. The lack of newspapers has been met by the publication of a strike paper at a considerable profit. The firm of printers ordered to instruct its employees to print the paper seems to have complied with the demand, although one of the partners vainly protested.

"The incident has created some anxiety as to further commanding and some engineers on the part of the strikers to know who is to pay them. Many discharged sailors and soldiers are cooperating with the strikers.

"It is reported that shipyard men and engineers at Londonderry are preparing to follow the example of the Belfast strikers.

ALARM IN GREAT BRITAIN OVER 'GIVING AWAY EMPIRE'

English Delegates to Peace Conference Accused in Press of Sowing Seeds of Discontent in Attitude on Colonial Issue

London, Jan. 31.—The discussions of the Paris conference regarding the future of the former German colonies are being followed with intense interest here. In some sections of the press there is a strong feeling against the British delegation for what the Globe calls "giving away the empire."

A great majority of Englishmen, the newspaper says, strongly support Australia's claim to the islands of the Pacific and South Africa's for possession of German East Africa. Indications that the claims of the dominions are not being supported by the British Government delegations have caused some alarm. The Morning Post, for example, says:

"If the British delegates weakly persist in the attitude they are not only surrendering the British interests entrusted to them, but they are sowing the seeds of such bitter discontent as might disturb and disrupt the British empire."

The Globe, taking this same line, says: "These former German colonies under the scheme proposed, which is practically a complete surrender of the practical statesman believes, President Wilson, however, is intent on trying his 'gentler hand,' and proposes to do this at the expense of the British empire and its allies, France, Italy and Japan."

The Westminster Gazette says it is distinctly unfortunate that the reasons advanced for President Wilson's policy are not fully expounded, so that "we can see how far they counterbalance its somewhat obvious drawbacks."

The Standard opposes the mandatory scheme for the Pacific islands and German Southwest Africa, saying they are necessary to safeguard Australia and South Africa. It adds that Australia is as much interested in the Pacific islands as the United States was in the Hawaiian Islands when she annexed them.

The Westminster Gazette asserts that the dominions need not be alarmed, as they will be the permanent mandatories in the territories in question.

Great Britain's reported acceptance of President Wilson's theory of internationalization as applied to captured enemy colonies, says the Paris correspondent of the Daily Mail, involves the admission that the treaties with Japan regarding the islands in the northern Pacific and with the Arabs regarding Syria and Mesopotamia standing with France as to the future status of the Cameroons must be arbitrarily modified if not null and void.

"The Japanese delegates are angry and alarmed and declare their unalterable determination to claim the islands, as promised," the correspondent says.

"These islands are really the crux of the whole situation. In Brussels is settled promptly he will ask the Council of Ministers to take steps to regulate the material, rolling stock and personnel."

This was the means adopted by the French Government to settle the transportation strike in Paris last week.

Premier Clemenceau received representatives of the National Railroaders Union yesterday evening. At the close of the conference the union men said they were satisfied with the situation. It was announced that Leon Miel, secretary of the Paris Lyons and Mediterranean Union, who was arrested following the "minute strike" Saturday, will be liberated provisionally today and will be held in his own recognizance to appear before a court-martial Tuesday.

\$625 for "Last Rose of Summer" New York, Jan. 31.—At the sale of the second part of the library of Herschel V. Jones, at the Anderson Galleries, Milton S. Eisenhower brought the record price of \$14,225. It was the dedication copy to the Earl of Bute.

Thomas Moore's "Last Rose of Summer," in the original manuscript, which contained the two verses and the music with several corrections, was sold for \$625.

SEE SYNDICALISM IN LABOR UNREST

Younger Elements Opposed to Unionism Blamed for British Troubles

NO GOVERNMENT POLICY

Whole Question to Be Raised in Parliament to Draw a Declaration on Subject

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London, Jan. 31.—The Parliamentary Labor party, it is announced, intends to raise the entire question of industrial unrest at the first opportunity after Parliament meets. They hope to draw a declaration of policy from the government and in case they don't consider that satisfactory, will bring forward plans of their own. It is that they will be aiming at one of the principal causes of the present trouble.

Preoccupied as the government is with the Peace Conference, there has been a notable absence of leadership in home affairs, and yesterday the Daily Chronicle, a recent supporter of Lloyd George, as it is, took the ministers severely to task for "falling behind their opportunity and their duty."

While not exonerating employers or employed from all blame, the Chronicle considered that the government's apparent inaction had much to do with the dangerous situation. The need of clear

sees industrial reformers.

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unilateral pronouncements is urged, particularly by those who are least inclined to take sensational views of the labor troubles and who consider them inevitable.

"What did you expect?" your correspondent was asked. "We shall not realize for years all we went through in the war. Strikes were inevitable, and it is lucky it is not summer time."

Several points about the situation seem to these people to signify that, however deplorable disputes are, the great bulk of British workmen are keeping their heads. Thus, even in Glasgow by no means all of the workers have come out, and there are many instances of strikers coming to an end and men going back pending the results of conferences.

The trouble is that it is clearly recognized that there are certain young labor elements that do not want grievances redressed at all. They are out not to improve the conditions of labor but to

make use of the more or less justifiable complaints of the older men to foment disturbances that will ultimately undermine the present order of society.

They are infected with syndicalist or Bolshevist ideals, and are almost as much opposed to sober old trade unionism as they are to capitalism. Working through shop stewards, they are flouting the recognized trade union officials, and deliberately calling unauthoritative strikes against agreements only just concluded. This is causing a great deal of anxiety to the regular labor leaders, in rendering useless the weapon of collective bargaining just after it has been finally recognized as a result of years of fighting.

J. H. Thomas, M. P., met such a situation by offering his resignation from the railway men's union when certain Welsh locals had repudiated a bargain he had made. It is too much to hope that all union officials will have the strength

or spirit to follow his example, but the old-established labor leaders are beginning to realize that they are not threatened in the least by the prevailing unrest.

One strange element in the situation is the excuse put forward at Belfast and other places that shorter hours are necessary in order to absorb the thousands now being demobilized. As a matter of fact, the returns of unemployed men have not so far been at

all alarming. All men have not yet found their jobs, but unemployment benefits paid by the government have prevented any distress. More would have found work undoubtedly if the Cabinet had announced its decisions about its commercial policy and removed restrictions from traders and manufacturers. This is one more reason why definite announcements on the entire industrial situation are anxiously looked for.

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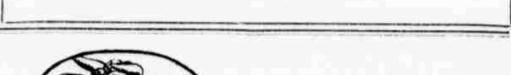
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BRUSSELS STRIKERS WARNED BY PREMIER

Paris, Jan. 31.—(By A. P.) Premier Bourgeois, of the Belgian cabinet, announced that unless the tramway strike

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